

Resolution Authorizing Lease of 179 South Winooski Avenue by The Human Resources Department, the Community Justice Center, and the Payroll Division of the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department and the Community Justice Center are currently renting space in the downtown from private landlords due to insufficient space within City Hall to accommodate them; and

WHEREAS, a search for leased space in sufficiently close proximity to City Hall has led to discussions with the Champlain Housing Trust ("CHT") regarding the lease of space in its McClure Building at 179 South Winooski Avenue that would accommodate the relocation of the Human Resources Department, the Community Justice Center, and the Payroll Division into that building; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Mayor's Office that if lease negotiations are successfully concluded the lease of this space will result in improved work space for these offices, savings in the cost of leased space, and increased flexibility and efficiency in operations in City Hall related to work areas; and

WHEREAS, while the negotiations have not yet been completed, a draft lease is being finalized, contingent on the success of final negotiations regarding the adequacy of the premises for the operations of these City offices and the cost to make them so; and

WHEREAS, because CHT has insisted on the City beginning the authorization process necessary to enter into this agreement as part of this final negotiation process, these offices have made a presentation to the Board of Finance and received approval to finalize negotiations and enter into a lease that is substantially similar to and at least as advantageous financially and operationally as the attached draft lease agreement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to execute a lease agreement for the lease of space by the Human Resources Department, Community Justice Center, and Payroll Division of the Clerk-Treasurer's Office in the McClure Building at 179 South Winooski Avenue that is substantially similar to and at least as advantageous financially and operationally as the attached draft lease agreement, subject to the final approval by the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Attorney as to the content and form, respectively.